

A2

7. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim [6] 12, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

Please add new claims 9-16 as follows

*SACI*

9. A device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements, wherein the device comprises:  
a carrier and a cover that cooperates with the carrier to form a capillary-active channel having a sample application opening and wherein a notch in the form of a partial groove is located in one of the surfaces forming the channel at an edge of the sample application opening so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially discontinuous and the surface opposite to the notch is exposed.

*A3*

10. Device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a second cover and an intermediate layer positioned between the second cover and the carrier.

11. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

12. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

13. Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

14. Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

15. Device as claimed in claim 14, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

*SACI*

16. A method for withdrawing a liquid sample into an analytical element, the method comprising the steps of providing a device that comprises a carrier and a cover that cooperates with the carrier to form a capillary-active channel having a sample application